Flip Chart Notes from the April 29th Mercury Advisory Committee Meeting

Comments from Advisory Committee Members and other Meeting Participants

Physicians for Social Responsibility
- No simple solutions/even small amounts bad
- Remove mercury threats from environment—zero tolerance
- Affordable alternatives available
- Will have to find some way to pay for costs

Advocates, Inc.
- Not much info on Agricultural uses of mercury
- They will help determine if mercury-containing pesticides, fungicides used
- There should be mutual respect among advisory committee members re: how far, where to go
- Make sure what's out there is managed properly
- Ideally there would be a list of recommendations coming from the Advisory Committee

TransAlta Centralia Operations
- 374lbs. of mercury emitted
- They wash coal, use electrostatic precipitators
- Cost to do more: 50-100K/lb. of mercury removed
- Expand section on fossil fuel production/use
- Assess comparative costs of reduction strategies

Association of Washington Businesses
- Missing some interests around table (mining, crematoria, seafood industry)
- Define how mercury is being created & exposure pathways
- Hg reduction goals—should be scientifically justifiable, technically feasible
- Assess costs + benefits (e.g., human health)
- Assess what is in our control
- Document should spell out options—not proposed rules
- There are benefits of current mercury use (e.g., there may be no substitutes or they lower performance)
- Do not use hype/scare tactics
- Address all sources of mercury
- Address highest risks first

Ecolights
- 20 million lamps disposed/yr in WA State (~20% being used): there is more to be done
- Address widening uses of mercury
- Address individual stockpiles

SW Clean Air Agency
- Try to control it before it gets into the air; it's very expensive to control at the "end of pipe"

WA Toxics Coalition
- Eliminate mercury from the environment
- Identify uses, "elimination" options
- Use legislative language
- Know effects of mercury, don't need to study more

- Look at pathways
- Not cost-effective to "manage" mercury, need to prevent
- Some sources missing from document:
  --hog fuel boilers
  --fertilizers (mining wastes, cement kiln dusts)
  --Ironite-consumer product
  --ag. application
  --some consumer products
  --mention health care products (e.g., Health Care without Harm's mercury-free pledge)

Institute of Neurotoxicology
- Low-level exposure has a lot of consequences
- How do you approach from a risk assessment perspective?
- It is a complex problem
- Effects subtle, global
- Good opportunity to educate people, to reduce—mercury occurs in a lot of places

City of Tacoma Sewage Treatment Plant
- Expensive to deal with in wastewater and solid waste
- WWTP - 1% of mercury. Goes to:
  --Air
  --Biosolids
  --Effluent
- #1 Source: Dental offices
- #2 Source: Households (dental and households combined 52%)
- #3 Source: Hospitals (look at WW too)
- Add mercury in foods to background document
- Effluent main concern
- Add electronic equipment to list (TVs, etc.) of MSW
- Countries & cities should also have purchasing policies
- Don't single out landfills
- Remove source

Yakima County Health District
- Recycling is only an interim step
- Resources limited— local health department's can't put $ toward mercury reduction
- Look at potential agriculture sources

Independent Business Association
- 180,000 small businesses in WA—have no clue
- Mercury auto switches—can break during wrecks (take out before)
- Auto dismantlers only handle 30-40% of cars disposed others not licensed)
- Provide Advisory Committee members a copy of the EPA document & dovetail with it
- Be practical—know real world impacts
- Benefit-Costs—know before act
- Timeline—too short, "action plan" should be geared accordingly (e.g., should be a high-level look at general directions to go in and gather more information on, rather than detailed strategies)

Washington State Dental Association
- Dentists put 14% of mercury in STP influent
- King County dentists putting in separators

- Dentists are not part of problem, but part of solution

Washington State Hospital Association
- Most don't use mercury, so not a big problem.
- May be some reduction opportunities based on discussion at meeting
- Add nursing homes (e.g., their medical equipment) to the background document

WashPIRG
- Involve the public
- Use current laws/regulations
- Put presentations on web site

Smedes & Assoc. (MSW)
- Huge task
- Need priorities
- Benefits & costs

American Chemistry Council
- Concerned/interested in process because this is first of PBT strategies
- What type of outreach is Ecology doing to get better picture?
  --Info (in WA)
  --Voluntary actions (in WA)
  --Regulations (in WA)
  --Where are gaps?
- How is Ecology contacting sources? (e.g., gold mines) Can business help?
- Explain relevant regulations and current programs better
- Use EPA document as a resource

Rabanco
- Roosevelt Landfill—will look at study
- Landfills regulated every 5 years
  --Will cost $ to make changes
  --Work closely with them well in advance of any changes

<u>Suggestions on Factors Ecology Should Consider When Choosing Reduction Options</u>

- Presence of sufficient factual information to make a decision
- Don't reinvent wheel
- Strategies directed at source
- Initiatives/strategies working elsewhere
  --Successes
  --Failures
- Public education
- Largest sources (either by volume or exposure)
- Cost
- Measurable outcomes

<u>Other Comments</u>
- For the next meeting a schematic would be useful (e.g., what's happening in terms of current regulations and programs, where are gaps, and what needs to be addressed)
- Re-check assumptions in background document